GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1990
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
JHUM CULTIVATION
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has asked the State Governments of Assam and others in the North East to make alternative arrangements for shifting cultivators engaged in Jhum cultivation;

(b) if so, the reaction and response of the NER State Governments thereto;

(c) the extent of nutrient soil estimated to have been degraded year to year due to Jhum cultivation; and

(d) the extent of soil deposited per year into the sea on this account?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) The ICAR has been recommending alternatives to shifting cultivation. However, the Council has not issued any directives to state government of Assam & other N-E states in this regard.

(b) State Governments and North East Council are implementing Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas and Jhum Rehabilitation Programme based on the research findings of ICAR.

(c) The nutrient loss per annum has been estimated to be around 11, 0.4 and 6 thousand tonnes of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium, respectively.

(d) The extent of soil loss due to Jhum cultivation is approximately 77 million tonnes/year, out of which about one fourth may be lost to the sea.